

## **Flag Education Curriculum for K-5 students in Minidoka County**

Developed by: Tricia Buckley, Katy Laumb, Tyna Christensen,  
Abbie Vogt, Peggy Gulbranson

A portion of Idaho Statutes Title 33 - Education, Chapter 16 - Courses of Instruction, 33-1602. United States Constitution—National Flag and Colors—National Anthem—"America"—Citizenship—Civics Test, states:

"...(2) Instruction in the proper use, display and history of and respect for the American flag and the national colors shall be given in all elementary and secondary schools. Such instruction shall include the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the words and music of the National Anthem, and of "America."...

"...(4) Every public school shall offer the Pledge of Allegiance or the national anthem in grades one (1) through twelve (12) at the beginning of each school day. ..." <https://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title33/T33CH16SECT33-1602.htm>

**Important Note to Administrators and Teachers:** This curriculum should be incorporated into current areas of study, and tie to holidays. The following is not a complete list of options. Teachers should feel free to add resources and include these concepts throughout their curriculum and activities. The concepts should build on each other and be reinforced from year to year. If a classroom teacher finds that the students are curious and want to learn more, they can teach the concepts in more depth.

In addition to regular classroom teachers and school-wide activities, Music Teachers, Librarians, and Computer Teachers can help teach and reinforce the concepts about the flag and citizenship.

### **Time Frame**

Instruction will be given at the beginning of the year and reinforced throughout the year. Under each grade level is listed the units where concepts can be reinforced and reviewed. The following holidays are important holidays related to citizenship and flag education providing opportunities for teachers and students to review and build on concepts.

Patriots Day - Sept. 11th

Constitution Day - Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>

Veteran's Day - Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in November

Pearl Harbor - Dec. 7th

Martin Luther King - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January

President's Day - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in February

### **School Wide - Daily**

School communities will reinforce the importance of citizenship and the flag by daily repeating the Pledge of Allegiance and/or singing the National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" as required by Idaho Statute.

Before saying the Pledge of Allegiance and/or singing the National Anthem students and teachers are encouraged to repeat the following quotation which was given to a teacher by Vicki Fike:

"I stand straight and tall, right hand on my heart. I'm not leaning on anything, and my left hand is down to my side. I am proud of who I am. I show it by how I stand. I'm proud of myself, my country, and my flag."

*Vicki Fike*

Taking care of the school's flag can be the responsibility of students instead of the custodial staff. At the beginning of the year, fifth grade students could be given the responsibility to raise the flag each morning, lower the flag each evening, and fold the flag properly for storage. They can make sure to lower the flag to half-staff when appropriate. If the flag gets torn, they can report this and help get the flag replaced and properly disposed of. In January, fifth grade students could teach fourth grade students how to take care of these responsibilities and gradually turn the responsibility over to them. By May, fourth graders are taking the entire responsibility in preparation for fifth grade.

### **Art Activity Ideas**

- Make a flag out of hands. Give students red, white, and blue paper. Have them trace their hands on the paper and cut it out. Use a large poster board or piece of bulletin board paper and glue the hands on to make the flag. Red and white alternating for the 13 stripes and blue as the field. Cut out stars and glue them on the blue hands.

**Music** - (Note: Music teachers working together with students, could present a musical program related to the flag, veterans, etc. Suggested songs might be:

- God Bless America
- The Flag Goes By
- America the Beautiful
- The Star Spangled Banner
- God Bless the USA

- My Country Tis of the Thee
- Battle Hymn of Republic
- You're a Grand Old Flag
- Idaho (fourth Grade)
- Fifty Nifty United States (fifth Grade)
- Yankee Doodle Dandy
- The Caissons Go Rolling Along
- Anchors A-Weigh
- Here We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder
- From the Halls of Montezuma

**Books** (Note: check your library to see if they have these books. Librarians could also use these books during library time. This is not an inclusive list. The school librarian may have more ideas.

- The Pledge of Allegiance
- A is for America
- America the Beautiful
- Red, White, and Blue: The Story of the American Flag
- <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/fourth-of-july/kids-books/>

**Grade Level Units** - These are units where teachers can teach, reteach, reinforce, and expand flag education and citizenship.

K - Red, White, & Blue

1 - I am Responsible, Our Neighborhood at Work, Home Sweet Home, I am Brave

2 - Courage, America's People

3 - Communities across Time

4 - Changing America and America on the Move

5 - American Revolution and Going West

**Grade Level Concepts:** These concepts should be taught in all grade levels. They have been arranged to build on each other and be reinforced from year to year; however, if in a classroom a teacher finds that their students are curious and want to learn more, they should teach the concepts more in depth.

**Kindergarten Objectives:**

- Students will learn and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Students will explain the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Students will answer the question: Why do we love America?
- Students will be able to identify the colors of the flag.

### First Grade Objectives:

- Students will review the Pledge of Allegiance and its meaning.
- Students will identify the American Flag and explain what it stands for by explaining the meaning of the colors, stripes, and stars. (Page 18 in the Honor Our Flag... booklet listed in resources has information.)
- Students will explain that the color red in the flag stands for "courage". (Unit 10 of Imagine It is a possible place for this discussion.)
  - To extend this objective: Students will answer the following question:  
Why is it important to face some fears?

### Second Grade Objectives:

- Students will review the American Flag and what it stands for. (The second story in unit six of the "Imagine It" reading series is a possible resource for this objective.)
- Students will answer the question: How can courage help you overcome difficult situations? (Unit five of the "Imagine It" program is a possible tie to this question. In addition this question could be tied to holidays.)
- Students will answer the question: Why is it important to recognize that America is made up of many diverse people? (Unit six of the "Imagine It" reading series is a possible tie to this question.)

### Third Grade Objectives:

- Students will answer the question: What responsibilities do we have as citizens of the United States?
  - In the booklet Honor Our United States Flag the following pages give information for teachers to use in teaching about this concept:
    - Page 13 - Uses and Misuses
    - Page 16 - Historical and Legal
    - Page 19 - Situation Questions
    - Page 11 - Saluting
- Students will memorize and recite the "American's Creed"
  - "I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect nation, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to

love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its Flag, and to defend it against all enemies." (Authorized Version found on page 29 of the booklet "Honor Our United States Flag".)

- Students will explain the importance of the American symbols: the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell.

**Fourth Grade Objectives:** (Note: fourth grade teachers may find information to use in the booklet "Honor Our United States Flag" as a resource for information.)

- Students will explain in detail the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Students will learn about and explore Idaho History. (Teachers can ask the music teacher to help students learn the Idaho State Song.)
- Students will explain the relationship between the United States Flag and specific holidays.
- Students will explain the history of the many flags in the history of the United States (possible resource "The Star Spangled Flag" book).
- Students will explain the history of the "Star Spangled Banner". (Teachers can ask the music teacher to help students learn the history of this song as they sing it in music class.)
- In January, students will learn how to properly raise, lower, and fold a flag. (Fifth graders will teach the fourth graders how to do these things.)

**Fifth Grade Objectives:** (Note: fifth grade teachers may find information to use in the booklet Honor Our United States Flag as a resource for information.)

- Students will identify the states in the United States of America, including their capitals and a brief history. Suggestions for teaching and reaching this standard include, but are not limited to:
  - Teach them by region
  - Set a specific time within the year to study
  - Have the music teacher help by teaching the song "Fifty, Nifty United States"
- Students will be able to explain the legal information related to flag etiquette.
- Students will be able to explain information related to the flag from previous grade levels and expand that information to increase their understanding of the importance of the flag, flag etiquette, and how it relates to citizenship.
- Students will discuss the history of "The Star Spangled Banner".
- Students will properly raise, lower, and fold the flag.

- In January, students will teach fourth graders to properly raise, lower, and fold the flag.

**Writing Contests/Prompts** - Although this contest is specifically for fifth grade, when the prompt becomes available it could be adjusted to other grade levels within a school. This prompt could be used to increase writing skills and reinforce the concepts of flag education and citizenship.

Elks Americanism Essay Fifth Grade

<https://www.elks.org/programs/americanism.cfm> - Check back in August for new prompt.

### **Resources**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9aGW3YNajE> - Independence Day and the History of the American Flag (Cool School) - 3:13
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSGLUOesziE> - Ann M. Wolf "Our Beautiful American Flag & The Meaning of the Stars & Stripes" - 9:27
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=korpaAhjRIO> - Red, White, and Blue: The Story of the American Flag - 9:36 (This is a reading of the book and shows the pages of the book)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Nw8FcU4dyM> - How to Fold the American Flag - 2:26
- <http://emblem.legion.org/Flag-Education/products/194/>
- Discovery Education
- Readworks.org
- Rhythm, Rhyme, and Read States and Capitals
- Region Roundup
- Our Great Democracy
- Maps, Charts, Graphs, United States Past and Present
- American Legion
  - I Pledge Allegiance
  - For Which It Stands - video
- Honor Our United States Flag Through Knowledge (there are some of these in fifth grade classes that could be shared with teachers as a resource)
- Scholastic Magazines (there are six pages included from a Scholastic Supplemental from 2001)
- "The Star Spangled Flag" - a reproducible teacher's guide (included with this curriculum)
- Community Members:

- George Mass
- VFW
- Rupert Elks/Grand Lodge of Elks - Becky Penn
- Gary Schorzman
- Darrel McCall
- Larry Cottom
- Todd McGee
- Vicki Fike
- American Legion
- Parents of students who are currently or who have served in the military